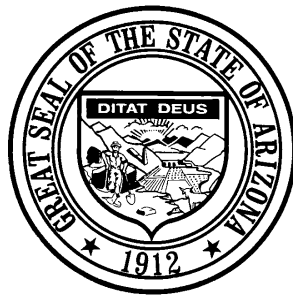


ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

JANET NAPOLITANO

Governor

Janet Napolitano

Members of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

Albert Ray Tuttle, P.A.-C
Chair/Physician Assistant Member

Joan Reynolds, P.A.-C
Vice Chair/Physician Assistant Member

Randy D. Daniels, Ph.D., P.A.-C
Physician Assistant Member

Michael E. Goodwin, P.A.-C
Physician Assistant Member

James Edward Meyer, M.D.
Allopathic Physician Member

Sigmund Popko
Public Member

Anna Marie Prassa
Public Member

Peter C. Wagner, D.O.
Osteopathic Physician Member

Kelli M. Ward, D.O., M.P.H., FACFP
Osteopathic Physician Member

Barry D. Weiss, M.D.
Allopathic Physician Member

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Media Relations Officer

Dear Governor Napolitano

On behalf of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, I submit to you the 2006 Annual Report. In fiscal year 2006, the Board took on the ambitious task of redesigning the entire investigative process. The new investigative process streamlines investigations, creates efficiencies, reduces the caseload and maintains the high quality of the investigations. The Board worked vigorously to reduce the caseload from a high of 41 to 18 cases and maintained the high quality of the investigations. For all of 2006, the average number of days to complete a complaint investigation was 194 days, but the average dropped to less than 180 days during the 2006 calendar year.

The Board improved on its record of processing physician assistant licenses, once receiving a fully completed application, from an average of 2 days to 1.2 days. Routine applications took an average of 36 days for the Board to receive all the required paperwork. The Board issued 248 new licenses—an increase of nearly 70% over 2004-2005. The Board finished the year with 1,478 licensed physician assistants.

In FY 2006, the Board asked customers to rate the investigation processes. The public and the licensees' responses reflect the quality of the Staff's hard work. Eighty-six percent of the responding customers were satisfied with Board Staff and the investigation process. Consistent performance by the Licensing Division was responsible for a high licensee satisfaction rating of 99% in 2006. The Board expects to achieve the same high ratings for fiscal year 2007.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Miller
Executive Director

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Albert Ray Tuttle, P.A.-C, the Board's Chair, is employed by the Family Medical Center in Safford and part-time at the Emergency Room of the Mount Graham Regional Medical Center in Safford. He has been a P.A. in Arizona since 1981 and formerly was a medic in the U.S. Army. During the years that he has been in Arizona, he has worked exclusively in family practice in rural settings and in the ER. He currently serves on the City of Safford Planning and Zoning Commission and has served on the Special Olympics and other boards that provide services for the developmentally disabled and local mental health providers. He is actively involved as a Boy Scout Leader. P.A. Tuttle is a member of the American Association of Physician Assistants, the Arizona Medical Association, and the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants. P.A. Tuttle has a special interest in the developmentally disabled and in 1998 became certified as a lifestyle counselor for weight control and stress management.



Joan M. Reynolds, M.M.S., P.A.-C, the Board's Vice-Chair, is a practicing physician assistant at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. She has been employed as a physician assistant since 1986, serving in primary care settings. Ms. Reynolds earned her Physician Assistant degree at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Reynolds received her Master's Degree in Medical Science through Nova Southeastern University. She is past-president of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants, has served as an elected delegate to the American Academy of Physician Assistants in the House of Delegates for the past



6 years. She has received the recognition of "Arizona PA of the Year in 2004," serves as a preceptor for PA students in Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, and is an Adjunct Faculty member for Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona and for Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa.

Randy Danielsen, Ph.D., P.A.-C, is Professor and Dean of the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), a School of A.T. Still University. He is the former Chair in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at ASHS. In November 2005, he was elected to serve a three-year leadership term on the Board of Directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). His term as Chairman-elect began January 1, 2006. In 2007, he will serve as the NCCPA Chairman of the Board, and in 2008, as the Immediate Past Chair. Dr. Danielsen has served on the NCCPA Board since 1997 and was most recently the chair of the Research & Test Development Committee, as the Secretary of the NCCPA Board of Directors, and as a member of the Executive Committee. He is also a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Dr. Danielsen serves on the Editorial Board of Clinician Reviews. He received his PA training at the University of Utah MEDEX program (1974), his Masters in PA Studies from the University of Nebraska (1997), and a Doctorate in Education (Ph.D.) from the Union Institute & University in 2003 with an emphasis on medical education.



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Michael E. Goodwin, P.A., is the founder and owner of Occupational Assessments & Services, an occupational medicine provider in and out of Arizona. He is a licensed physician assistant, receiving his training at the United States Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri. He attended the University of Cincinnati residency in occupational medicine. Goodwin is currently a member of the Executive Board, Section on Medical Center Occupational Health for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty, Arizona School of Health Sciences and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Arizona Valle del Sol Association of Occupational Health Services. P.A. Goodwin is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, is a founding member of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants, and belongs to the American Academy of Physician Assistants and to the Arizona Medical Association.



James E. Meyer, M.D., is the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant Program and an Associate Professor for the College of Health Sciences at Midwestern University. He is also an Associate Medical Director of Hospice of Arizona. Dr. Meyer receives his medical education at the University of Michigan Medical School and completed a medicine internship at the Milton S. Eshelman Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University and an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center. He also completed extensive postgraduate psychotherapy training. He is a Board certified Marriage and Family



Therapist and is a Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare.

Sigmund Popko, J.D., earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law and is an Associate Professor of Legal Writing at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as a Visiting Attorney for the United States Sentencing Commission in Washington, D.C., and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Federal Public Defender's Office, District of Arizona. Mr. Popko is a member of several professional and civic associations, including the Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He is the co-author of a treatise on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, "Federal Sentencing Law and Practice," published by Thomson West.



ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Anna Marie Prassa founded Executive Stress Busters, Inc. and pioneered the 15-minute, in-office massage concept to combat computer and work related injuries. She also opened Natural Day Spa, an environment that naturally activates our 5 senses. Ms. Prassa is a highly trained motivational speaker. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree, has completed workshops and medical programs at the Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami School of medicine and has attended an internship program at the University of Arizona. Ms. Prassa has conducted extensive research on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Headaches and Temporal Mandible Joint Disorder. She has 17,300 hours in training and over 15 years experience working with the muscular system. Ms. Prassa currently also serves on the Homeopathic Board and the Acupuncture Board. She was recently appointed to conduct a special study of the private investigator and security guard professions. In April 2001, Ms. Prassa sold her businesses for a less stressful life and has been pursuing her speaking career.



Peter C. Wagner, D.O., is the medical director of the Gila Crossing Clinic on the Pima Indian Reservation south of Phoenix. Prior to this position, he was in private practice for 15 years in Chandler. Dr. Wagner is a member of the clinical faculty at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Arizona. He is also a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and was called to active duty in 2003 under Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base for his tour of duty. Formerly, Dr. Wagner was the acting



clinical director at Sells Indian Hospital in Sells, Arizona, a clinical lecturer at the University of Arizona Medical School, and the vice-chairman and chairman of the Family Medical Department at Mesa General Hospital. Dr. Wagner has served on the Arizona Osteopathic Association Committee on Comprehensive Planning. He is a published author in *Osteopathic Annals* and is the recipient of numerous awards from the Mesa Association for Retarded Citizens and the Tempe Center for Rehabilitation. Dr. Wagner received his D.O. degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri and completed his residency in family practice at Richmond Heights General Hospital in Ohio. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American College of General Practice, and is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

Kelli M. Ward, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP, is a resident of Lake Havasu City, Arizona where she has practiced medicine since 1999. She is a Board certified family physician. Dr. Ward earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and continued her education with a Family Practice Residency, Faculty Development Fellowship, and Clinician Educator Fellowship in Michigan. Additionally, Dr. Ward completed the Osteopathic Heritage Health Policy Fellowship in 2003. Also, Dr. Ward has earned a Master's Degree in Public Health. She is the president of the Arizona Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Practitioners, the secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and a member of the American Osteopathic Association. She is also active in her community as a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador.



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Barry D. Weiss, M.D., FAAFP, is a Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona's College of Medicine. He is the editor of "Family Medicine," the Journal of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and associate editor of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Home Study Monograph Program. Dr. Weiss received his M.D. degree from the State University of New York at the Buffalo School of Medicine. Dr. Weiss is Board certified in family medicine and geriatric medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine.



LICENSING

The Board issued 70% more Physician Assistant licenses during 2005-2006 FY than it did the year before.

Physician Assistants continue to play an important role in healthcare and provide physicians with the opportunity to better serve their patients. They serve Arizonans in numerous environments.

The concept of physician assistants is relatively new. During the 1960's, when the need for health care personnel developed in underserved and rural communities, former military corpsmen with medical training were returning to civilian life. At the time, they wanted to put their training to use, but lacked the opportunity to enter the physician-dominated health care system.

That changed with the acceptance of physician assistants as part of the healthcare team.

The Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants began licensing applicants and regulating the profession in the 1970's. According to a February 1975 Arizona Medical Board newsletter, the first group of licensed physician assistants numbered 15 and came from an initial applicant group of 33. Eleven of the 15 were engaged in patient care services.

At the end of June 2006, there were almost 1,500 active licensed Physician Assistants in Arizona, a nearly 13% increase from the previous year.

Licenses		
	FY 05	FY 06
Total Number of Physician Assistants	1,311	1,478
Licenses Issued	146	248
Temporary Licenses Issued	48	46
Supervision Notifications Processed	609	764
Average Number of Days to Process an Initial Application (Date of receipt of fully completed application to final issue)	2	1.2

REGULATION

A new, four-stage Adjudication Process has been implemented, standardizing the way complaints are opened, investigated, processed and adjudicated.

The Board opens an investigation when a complaint is against a physician assistant and the allegation—if true—is a violation of the Physician Assistant Practice Act.

Compliance Monitoring is the Board's way of knowing that its orders involving practice restrictions, limitations and probation are being followed. The figure represents the number of physician's assistants being monitored for these reasons. Compliance officers conduct random chart reviews, review physician records and report to

the Board any findings of non-compliance.

Failure to obey a Board order can lead to more disciplinary action.

Twelve physician assistants are currently participating in the Physician Health Program and Monitored Aftercare Program. Board Staff ensure PAs comply with each program's requirements and are safe to practice medicine. Findings of non-compliance are immediately brought to the Board's attention.

PA Regulation		
	FY 05	FY 06
Investigations Remaining Open at Fiscal Year's End	41	18
Number of PAs Monitored for Compliance	2	3
Number of PAs in Monitored Aftercare Program (MAP)	9	10
Number of PAs in Physician Health Program (PHP)	N/A	2

